REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding ground of rejection is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the remarks that follow.

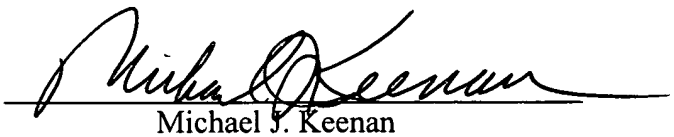
At the outset, applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that claims 1-3, 13, 14, 20-23 and 25-27 have been allowed, and that claims 30 and 31 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 28, 29 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kaminski in view of Hardy (for claims 28 and 29) and Kaminski in view of Calfee (for claim 32). By this Amendment, applicants have incorporated the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 31 into claim 28 thereby placing claim 28 as well as dependent claims 28, 30 and 32 in condition for immediate allowance. Claim 31 has been canceled.

The application is now in condition for immediate allowance and early passage to issue is requested. The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance and early passage to issue is requested. In the event any small matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned so that the prosecution of this application can be expeditiously concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

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